

OHCA Guideline

Medical Procedure Class:	Doula Services
Initial Implementation Date:	July 1, 2023
Last Review Date:	N/A
Effective Date:	July 1, 2023
Next Review/Revision Date:	July 2026
* This document is not a contract, and these guidelines do not reflect or represent every conceivable situation. Although all items contained in these guidelines may be met, this does not reflect, or imply any responsibility of this agency or department to change the plan provision to include the stated service as an eligible benefit.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Criteria <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of Existing Criteria	
Summary	
Purpose:	To provide guidelines to assure medical necessity and consistency in the prior authorization process.
Definitions	
<p>Doula: a trained professional who provides emotional, physical, and informational support services during the prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods.</p> <p>Postpartum: the period after childbirth when maternal physiological and anatomical changes return to the nonpregnant state.</p> <p>Prenatal: before birth; during or relating to pregnancy.</p>	
Description	
<p>Doulas are non-clinical and do not provide medical care.</p> <p>Doula services may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing emotional and physical support; • advocating and working as part of the member's multidisciplinary team; • prenatal counseling and assisting in preparing for and carrying out birth plans; • teaching and advocating on behalf of the birthing parent during appointment visits; • facilitating and assuring access and linkage to resources that can improve birth-related outcomes; • providing ongoing education with an emphasis on postpartum care and resources; • providing information on infant feeding, as well as breastfeeding guidance and resources; • providing person-centered, culturally competent care; and • supporting the whole birth team including a birthing parent's partner, family members, and other support persons. 	
When Doula Services Require a Prior Authorization (PA)	
<p>Prior Authorization is required only when requesting additional visits, beyond the standard benefit package of eight (8) prenatal/postpartum visits, for members with extenuating medical circumstances.</p>	
Approval Criteria	
<p>Prior authorization requests for additional visits must include all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information that supports the medical necessity for the additional visit(s); and 	

- Detailed description of the extenuating circumstance(s) that necessitate additional visit(s); and
- Description of services that will be provided during additional visit(s); and
- Documentation of all doula services previously provided; and
- Information about why necessary services cannot be provided within the regular benefit allowed.

Additional Information

Doula services require a referral and must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts within the scope of their practice under State law.

Providers who may make a referral include: Obstetricians, Certified Nurse Midwives, Primary Care Providers including Physicians, Physician Assistants and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

Surrounding State Medicaid Policies & Rules Reviewed

Minnesota Department of Human Services. (2020). *Minnesota Department of Human Services Provider Manual – Reproductive Health/OB-GYN – Doula Services*. Retrieved from https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16_190890#ar

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Care Financing and Policy. (year). *Medicaid Services Manual Chapter 600 Physician Services - 603.4E Doula Services*. Retrieved from https://dhcfp.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dhcfpnavgov/content/Resources/AdminSupport/Manuals/MSM/C600/MSM_600_22_07_01_ADA.pdf

Virginia State Plan Amendment. (2021). *Virginia State Plan Amendment 21-0013*. Retrieved from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/spa/downloads/VA-21-0013.pdf>